



CLIRPath-AI Network Project Application Guidance



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Network

Network: CLIRPath-AI: Integrating Clinical Infrared and Raman Spectroscopy with Digital Pathology and AI

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For more information on the CLIRPath-AI Network visit our website at [CLIRPath-AI.org](https://clirpath-ai.org)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact admin@clirpath-ai.org

Summary

Applicants are invited to apply for short-term interdisciplinary pilot project funding from the CLIRPath-AI Network. These pilot projects will be expected to last no more than 6 months in duration and are intended to create novel links between Spectroscopy, Pathology and AI/Machine Learning.

All projects must comply with every aspect of the UKRI project guidelines:

<https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/meeting-ukri-terms-and-conditions-for-funding/>

Overall Project Criteria:

- Individual projects can request funding up to £50,000. Requests for less than £50,000 could allow for more projects being granted funding so please only request what is necessary.
- As per standard EPSRC funding, applicants will be awarded 80% of the full cost and the institution receiving the award is responsible for the remaining 20%. When invoices are submitted, they should be for 80% of the full cost and a statement should also be submitted showing the full cost. For further details on costings and overheads see EPSRC's Full Economic Costing Guides <https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-research-grants/>
- Projects are expected to normally be of 6 months duration.
- Projects must be interdisciplinary in nature, creating novel links between at least two of the CLIRPath-AI areas of interest: Spectroscopy, Pathology and AI.
- Projects should preferably involve more than one institution or organisation. Interdepartmental collaboration is the minimum acceptable level of interdisciplinary; Industry involvement is also permitted.
- Applicants must be UK-based researchers or employees of UK-based research organisations.
- Projects must be able to demonstrate reasonable prospects of continuation funding.
- It is anticipated that project funding will be used to employ a new or existing PDRA for a short period to carry out pump priming research with related consumables however, other uses of the funding will also be considered. Do note that the funding cannot be used for research visits or equipment over £10,000.
- For more information on what can be included in costings, please visit <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/costs-you-can-apply-for/#contents-list>
- Applications must be made on the CLIRPath-AI application form and must not exceed the prescribed page limit. They must be accompanied by a 1-page Gantt chart style project plan.

Applicant Criteria & Descriptions:

PI's and CO-I's: PI's and CO-I's must be eligible for EPSRC funding. For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive funding, see the EPSRC Funding guide: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/>

Project Partners: Projects may also include collaborators referred to as Project Partners or Industrial Partners. Project Partners are defined as collaborating organisations who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include in-kind or cash contributions such as expertise, staff time, use of facilities, etc. Project Partners cannot receive funding directly from the grant including travel and subsistence; the only exception to this is where a Project Partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation. Letters of support can be included to demonstrate Project Partner support.

Staff: If you are requesting salary for a person either currently working for (or to be hired by the academic institutes of the PI/Co-I) then this person will be considered staff in your application. There would typically be post-docs, although PhD students can be permitted, provided they suspend their studies and take a secondment for the duration of the role and b) the project is NOT a continuation of their PhD.

Sub-Contractors: If you have tendered the position required for your project and ascertained that the best person for the role is someone from a commercial company then this person will be considered a sub-contractor on your application.

Collaboration Agreements: We require agreements to be made on GDPR compliant policies and Data Processing Agreements between the applying institution and their collaborators. If these cannot be agreed within a certain timeframe, we reserve the right to cease the contract process and choose another application.

Assessment Process:

Applications will be assessed by the CLIRPath-AI Management Team to ensure they meet the essential project criteria outlined above.

Standard EPSRC assessment criteria will also be applied: Quality, Importance, Impact, feasibility of project budget, likelihood of project completion in limited time. Evidence of a planning and management process for the duration of the project will be required.

Applicants are entitled to request feedback after assessment is complete.

Project Management and Expectations:

- Projects will be required to submit a report on the activities and outcomes of the project, along with all invoices within a month of the end of the project. Reports can be sent to admin@clirpath-ai.org
- Project leaders will also be expected to participate in CLIRPath-AI network events and activities where appropriate.

Intellectual Property:

The CLIRPath-AI Network makes no claim to intellectual property that arises from research projects funded under this grant. Instead, a contract will be drawn up for each project claiming IP rights to the PIs institution. For more information visit the EPSRC guidance on IP: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/what-to-include-in-your-proposal/protecting-your-intellectual-property/#contents-list>

However, it is required that the outputs/results of any project be shared with the CLIRPath-AI Network for inclusion on the project website and other materials. One of the key aim of the network is information sharing with the goal of creating new potential research projects and solutions to problems. As such, it is vital that all outputs be shared and made easily accessible to all other network members and the wider public to help grow the network, the research base, and ultimately benefit patients.

The funding will be awarded via the CLIRPath-AI Network Award Agreement from the University of Manchester and the research organisation leading on the proposal. This agreement will specify the agreed terms and clarify IP. If the application includes more than one Research Organisation and/or Project Partners, the main applying Research Organisation must have their own formal agreement in place to set out the basis of collaboration including ownership or intellectual property rights.

All publications and other outputs/disseminations resulting from work carried out under this grant must acknowledge the CLIRPath-AI Network funding. These publications must adhere to UKRI Open Access requirements, and any software produced should be open source.

Funded projects will be expected to present a summary of their work at CLIRPath-AI events.

Key Dates:

Deadlines for applications are detailed on the application form.

Proposals should be submitted by email to admin@clirpath-ai.org

Successful applicants notified as soon as possible following peer review.

Successful projects should be prepared to start as soon as possible after award.

Projects will be expected to report on progress at CLIRPath-AI conferences.

GDPR Statement:

The CLIRPath-AI Network is a cross-institutional endeavour, but the primary institution is the University of Manchester as the project PI is Peter Gardner, based at the University of Manchester. The University of Manchester adheres to strict Privacy rules regarding all personal and sensitive information held. We only collect and retain the minimum amount of data possible and to keep it securely. More information can be found here:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/privacy-information/data-protection/>

Please be aware that we will be retaining the information about applicant institutions and the domains in which the applicants work for the duration of the network to create statistics on engagement with our funding call.